Foreign Advertisements

McCRACKEN, MERR

FORWARDI

COMMISSION

Portla

HAVING BEE

Coffee, &c., continuing steadily in value throughout the entire for the Orenjoinia. This will continue to be more true, when and upon

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S. Francisco

An anecdote will sometimes better illustrate an important fact than the most labored article. We have one at hand to demonstrate the rise of real estate values in San Francisco. In 1847, Capt. W. C. Ide bitly purchased a lot among the sand hills, 165 by 1275 feet, and in a locality which is now the north side of Bush street, between Kearny and Dupont. The price paid was sixty dollars, at that period considered its full value. He has retained possession of the property to the present day, and having built a number of small tenements upon it, has been in the receipt of a comfortable income from that source for a series of years. He has now leased the lot for twenty-one years, at the rental of one thousand dollars per month, equal to two hundred and fifty-two thousand dollars for the term specified. At the expiration of that period, the lessees have the privilege of renewing their lease, or should they prefer the right to purchase for one hundred and thirty thousand dollars at any time prior to the expiration of the twenty-one years. This is by no means an isolated case, and will convey a tolerably clear idea of the growth of San Francisco and the confidence placed in its future grandeur. There is now scarcely a lingering doubt but the Pacific Railroad will be completed by the middle of next year, and by this time prices of real estate in this city will receive an impetus which may go beyond rational bounds. That an attempt will be made to inflate values can scarcely be doubted, and as the desire to possess this kind of property is undisputably the ruling passion of San Franciscans, they should exercise the greater caution during periods of unusual excitement.

Our California neighbors are striving hard to introduce a substitute for pale, and sponge is expected to answer very well for it. Still, the increase in the wants of the Pacific States will demand all the pale, sponge, moss and hair that can be obtained. In the report of the Mechanics' Fair, in San Francisco, we find the following reference to sponge in the *Bulletin*.

The Pacific Elastic Sponge Company are exhibitors of a variety of mattresses, pillows, bolsters and cushions manufactured by them at No. 617 Market street, from the new elastic sponge. Even six to ten persons, male and female, are at present employed in the factory, and the business is a growing one. The material used is a coarse, grass sponge, found in abundance on the coast of Mexico and Florida, and among the Bahama coral reefs. Hitherto, it has been considered of little or no value, but by means of a chemical process, it has at last been converted into an article of commerce and made to minister to the wants and comfort of humanity. The chemical preparation incorporates pure glycerine which, the patentees claim, will keep it forever distended. The sponge grows in a straggly form among the corals of the sea shore, and in the Bahamas is gathered by the native negroes and sent to various places of depot. The raw material is first put through what is called a "stuff engine," which cuts, washes and tears it from fragments of shell and other foreign matter. It is then passed through a series of rubber rollers, which are saturated with glycerine, and then dried in ovens and baled. A single inch of the prepared sponge will expand to twelve times its compressed bulk. It is claimed that the sponge is free from the invasions of all kinds of vermin, will not pack, is lighter than curled hair, pain or feathers, softer and more elastic than any other substitute for the purpose to which it is put. The supply of the raw material is inexhaustible, and vessels make regular voyages from Boston and New York to the latitudes where it is found to obtain cargoes.

A letter from a gentleman in England informs us that the new steamers for the British China Line are being rapidly built on the Clyde, near Glasgow. When he visited the shipyard, in July, seven were on the stocks, in various stages of completion. They are to be propeller steamships, and being built expressly for the Pacific trade, will be fitted with the modern improvements best adapted to the trade they are to be engaged in. We have seen it stated that the line is to begin at Panama, thence to San Francisco, Honolulu and Hongkong. It is supposed these steamers will commence running early in 1869.

A gentleman lately from San Francisco informs us that the North American Steamship Company (now engaged in running an opposition line between New York and San Francisco via Panama,) intend establishing a line of steamers between San Francisco and Hongkong, via Honolulu, and for this object have purchased ten fast steamers in New York and one propeller in Hongkong. The line will be opened as soon as the vessels arrive at San Francisco, to which port they are now bound.

It would thus appear that, at no distant day, we shall see steamers making Honolulu a stopping place to and from China. An immense trade is expected to spring up with China and Japan, on the completion of the Pacific Railroad, or rather it is thought that it will leave the East India route by which it has hitherto gone, and seek this speedier and less dangerous one. Steam is so safe and expeditious that it is destined to do the carrying trade of the world.

STOCKS.—On Saturday last, Mr. Bartow sold two shares of the steamer *Kilauea* for *five dollars* each; and two shares of the Haiku Sugar Plantation for $452 each—the same belonging to the estate of S. Savidge. His sales shows a decline almost as marked as that of many of the vaunted Washoe mining companies. But this does not the steamer *Kilauea*, nor the Haiku Plantation has ever paid one dollar dividend. The par value of the steamer stock is $250; and of Haiku Plantation $1000, though sales of the latter have been made at $1500!

The clipper ship *El Dorado*, under charter to load guano, arrived on Sunday noon last, and sailed on Monday for Baker's Island.

The bark *Manna Loa* sailed on Thursday for Puget Sound, taking a small cargo of salt and molasses.

The *Comet* will leave to-day for San Francisco, with a cargo of island produce.

The bark *Cambridge* is daily expected, with a cargo of lumber from Humboldt Bay, and the ship *Ceylon*, four months out from Boston, with assorted cargo merchandise.

The latest quotation of gold is 146@147, sperm oil $1,90@$2,00; whale oil 80@85c.; bone 65c. *gold*.

COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

The ship building interest in Boston is being resuscitated, so says the *Advertiser*, and 13 vessels are either building or under contract.

Deep sea soundings off the Island of St. Croix, W. I., reveal the fact that no bottom is found at the depth of 1000 fathoms, only a mile and a half from the shore, from which it is inferred that St. Croix is the apex of an immense submarine mountain. Laying a submarine cable in that vicinity will be a difficult job.

The Pacific Mail Steamship Co., capital $20,000,000—announce a suspension of dividends, on account of competition between New York and California, till they break down the opposition. The stock sells at $100, and it has sold for $500, and within three months at $128. They have hitherto paid 30 cent. quarterly.

GOOD FOR SHIP BUILDERS.—The Committee on Commerce, has reported a bill providing for the refunding of the duties on the materials actually used in building and rigging vessels built in the United States. This measure is designed to revive the ship-building interest, now so completely prostrate. If passed, the bill will make a difference of $8,000 in gold, in building a thousand-ton ship.

INTEREST.—A simple mode of computing interest is as follows: Multiply any given number of dollars by the number of days of interest required, separate the right hand figure and divide by six; the result is the true interest for such a number of days at six per cent. This rule is so simple and true, according to all business usage, that every banker, broker, merchant, and clerk should post it up for reference and use. By an arithmetical process can so desirable information be obtained with so few figures.

Among the few articles which have decreased in price since the war, instead of going the reverse, are sponges, fair samples of which are now to be had very cheap from sidewalk dealers. The reason probably is that the native sponge, from Florida and elsewhere, has of late been dropped from use as an article of commerce owing to the duty imposed on the imported article.

WHALING ITEMS.

We glean the following from the New Bedford *Shipping List*, of ships sailed for the Pacific:

Bark Morning Star, Allen, July 1st.
Bark Hunter Crocker, Fisher, July 1st.
Bark Minerva, Allen, July 7th.
Bark Black Eagle, Swain, Jr., July 8th.
Bark John P. West, Manchester, July 11th.

DEATH OF A SHIP-MASTER.—Capt. Frederick S. Howland, late master of bark *Henry Taber*, which recently returned home on account of his illness, died at his residence in Dartmouth, July 9th.

A letter from Capt. Cleveland, of ship *Niger*, of New Bedford, reports her off Massafuero, May 23d, having taken 350 bbls. sperm oil since leaving Talcahuano—750 bbls. sperm and 600 bbls. whale oil all told. While fast to a whale but a boat above, and Mr. Duggett, of Holmes Hole, a boatsteerer, seeing his father, fourth mate, as he thought injured, swam for him, but the whale rolled over and the boatsteerer was seen no more. The whale turned on the boat and completely demolished it. The *Niger* would be at Paita in August.

PORT OF HONOLULU, H. I.

ARRIVALS.

Aug. 29—Schr Marilda, Berrill, from Hawaii.
30—Schr Hattie, Nika, from Kauai.
30—Am ship El Dorado, Woodside, 14 days from San Francisco.
30—Schr Mary, from Kauai.
30—Schr Hokulele, from Maui.
31—Am wh bark Roscoe, Macomber, from sea.
31—Schr Nettie Merrill, Lambert, from Kauai.
31—Schr Active, Cluney, from Hawaii.
31—Schr Annie, Babcock, from Hawaii.
31—Schr Isabella, from Molokai.
Sept. 1—Schr Mary Ellen, West, from Maui.
1—Schr Mamookawai, Antone, from Maui.
1—Schr Yette, White, from Kauai.
2—Schr Ka Moi, Powers, from sea.
2—Schr Kona Packet, Marchant, from Hawaii.
2—Schr Warwick, from Molokai.
3—Schr Odd Fellow, Davis, from Hawaii.
3—Schr Kamaile, Adams, from Molokai.
3—Schr Kate Lee, Crane, from Maui.
4—Schr Hattie, Nika, from Kauai.
5—Stmr Kilauea, McGregor, from Windward Ports.
5—Schr Marilda, Berrill, from Hawaii.
5—Schr Mot Keiki, fm Maui.

DEPARTURES.

Aug. 29—Am stmr Idaho, Conner, for San Francisco.
29—Schr Kate Lee, Crane, for Maui.
29—Am bark Kutusoff, Atkinson, for Puget Sound.
29—Schr Lukia, for Kauai.
30—Schr Kamaile, Adams, for Molokai.
31—Stmr Kilauea, McGregor, for Kauai.
31—Schr Hattie, for Kauai.
31—Schr Marilda, Berrill, for Hawaii.
31—Am Ship El Dorado, Woodside, for Baker's Island.
Sept. 1—Schr Nettie Merrill, Lambert, for Kauai.
1—Schr Active, Cluney, for Hawaii.
2—Schr Mary, for Kauai.
2—Schr Warwick, for Molokai.
2—Am Wh bk Roscoe, Macomber, for Cape St Lucas.
3—Schr Prince, Harrison, for Hawaii.
3—Schr Yette White, for Kauai.
3—Schr Annie, Babcock, for Hawaii.
3—Schr Mary Ellen, West, for Maui.
3—Schr Ka Moi, Powers, for Maui.
3—Schr Hokulele, for Maui.
3—Haw Pack Manoa, Helsking, for Victoria.
4—Schr Isabella, for Molokai.

[illegible] Honolulu.

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Ships' Mails.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO—Per Comet, this day.
FOR WINDWARD PORTS—Per Kilauea, on Monday.
FOR KAUAI—Per Nettie Merrill, on Monday.
FOR LAHAINA—Per Kate Lee, this day.

EXPORTS.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO—Per stmr Idaho, August 29th:

Bananas, bunches	258 Limes, No.	33,200
Coral, pkg	1 Pulu, lbs	264 8
Cocoanuts, No.	500 Sugar, lbs	1,112,227
Value domestic produce		$52,782 29

FOR BAKER'S ISLAND—Per El Dorado, August 31st:

Brooms, lbs	1,750 Pul, lbs	12,000
Beef, lbs	4,000 Rice, lbs	200
Molasses, gills	200 Sugar, lbs	253
Value, { Domestic		$357 75
Value, { Foreign		81 20

FOR VICTORIA, V. I.—Per Manoa, September 2d:

Molasses, gills	9,931 Salt, lbs	45,920
Pork, bbl	1	
Value, { Foreign		$ 21 00
Value, { Domestic		1,557 83

PASSENGERS.

FOR WINDWARD PORTS—Per Kilauea, August 31st—Rev B W Parker and wife, Miss A Wundenberg, A Chater, W Ewa, W S Akana, P Milton, Achong, W Allworth—9 cabin and 75 deck passengers.

FOR SAN FRANCISCO—Per Idaho, August 29th—Col. Z S Spalding, Rev E Warren, Mrs Johnston and child, Miss Mason, Miss Carr, Mrs Kennicutt, C E Stackpole, H B Phillips, Geo Fern Jr, A A Phillips, M Phillips, J Stewart, M Flores, J Bonny, Dr Bock, G H Beasly, Mr Weiss, E Robinson F McLaughlin, Master Harriman—21.

DIED.

HALEY—At Waiohinu, Kau, Hawaii, August 18th, Emma, youngest daughter of Nelson C. and Charlotte Haley, aged thirteen months. "The dead are everywhere."

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5.

Bonded Laborers—The Coolie System.

The last issue of the Government *Gazette* contains an article on "bonded laborers" so glaringly at variance with facts, that we feel bound to notice it. Nothing is ever gained by misrepresentations, from whatever source they may originate. Under the pressure of a growing public opinion abroad, the Hawaiian Ministers, who are responsible for late shipments, have become somewhat uneasy, and in the above paper have attempted a defense of the system. To the careless reader, or to those who have implicit faith in the gentlemen Ministers, and who will accept their statements as facts, the coolie—Chinese or Japanese—would seem to be the most favored, and consequently the most happy, of mortals. The article in question undertakes to establish two things—that the condition of the Chinese laborer is all that can be desired, and that he is on a par with the native laborer. Before accepting either of these as established, let us look into the facts on the other side, and view the question "from the coolie standpoint."

The Chinese who were selected by the agent of the Board of Immigration were upon their arrival landed and marched to the premises near the Custom-house, and confined within the yard, and a guard of soldiers placed over them. Parties desirous of obtaining coolies were allowed—some few favorites to make their choice, others to take in regular order. This privilege, however, was denied the coolie. To all intents and purposes he was regarded as a "chattel." Was this in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom? Had a writ of habeas corpus issued in behalf of these coolies, could not every one of them have secured personal liberty, or at least enough to choose his master and the kind of service to engage in?

The Ministers would have it believed that "no complaints of ill treatment or unnecessary hardship" have been heard. Perhaps the Ministers are ignorant of any coolies ever having marched to the Government to seek redress from their Master, but most certainly others have heard of these things. The treatment of the coolies on board the British bark *Eastfield* was, to use the mildest word, outrageous, and had justice been meted to the parties responsible, our chainganes would to-day have seen them in it. Upon arrival we boarded that vessel, and *saw* with our own eyes four of the coolies chained hand and foot to the rail, and heard from the lips of an officer the story of the way in which order had been preserved on board that ship, which would shock "the nerves of humanitarians and arouse their sensibilities." And one poor fellow jumped overboard to end what the official organ ironically terms "a voyage of *comfort*, *novelty* and pleasureable excitement." The scenes enacted at their landing, previous to being driven to their quarters at Waikiki, were enough to make one's blood boil; and, if we have been correctly informed, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul General, who was a witness, did interpose in behalf of these injured coolies.

The *Gazette* naively remarks that as a proof that the coolies have not been maltreated, no case has ever been brought before our Courts where one has sought compensation in damages. This may be all very true. But had we a class of pettyfogging lawyers in our midst, whose business it was to seek out cases to bring before the Courts, the calendar of each term might record several. Is it any wonder that ignorant coolies from a country where Courts of Justice are unknown, and knowing nothing of our language and customs, do not resort to our Courts for redress for wrongs? As a general thing, the coolie is unable for years to make himself fully understood, and learns by bitter experience to endure in silence any wrongs he may feel himself aggrieved with. This may account for the *Gazette's* statement that no small portion of their thoughts and efforts during their first years "are *directed to a redress of real or fancied wrongs.*"

We are not alone in the belief that had the complaints of the coolie who murdered Mr. Dudoit, been examined into and received the attention they deserved, two lives would have been saved. The coolie had made his complaint at the Station-house once or more, and the wrongs, "real or fancied," still existed when he determined to take the law into his own hands and avenge himself. The killing of the coolie on one of the Maui plantations by an overseer was an outrage against the laws; and had the case been reversed, and the overseer met his death at the hands of the coolie, does any one doubt that he would have paid the penalty?

We heard of a case not long since, where a coolie appeared at the Court-house in this city, with the rations served to him for breakfast in his hand, consisting of half a papaia and a slice of taro. What redress did he obtain? Let those answer who know.

The official organ says the coolie "is not subject to corporeal punishment." Under the law, he is not; but it is well known that many are the stripes inflicted and borne, because the sufferer is ignorant of the law, or if he knows it, knows also that it is next to useless to seek redress.

The organ asserts that the Chinese coolie "finds himself introduced into a labor system in which he bears no badge of degradation, no mark of inferiority, in comparison with his fellow-laborers." "No coolie code singles *him* out for particular surveillance and regulation." To refute this, we have simply to refer to the law enacted by the late Legislature and published by us last week, in which the Minister of the Interior and the Board of Immigration are empowered to make such regulations to govern coolies and other laborers which the Board may import, as they may deem proper. Such regulations, moreover, are to have the force of law throughout the Kingdom, and all the Courts are summarily ordered to take due notice thereof. In order that there may be no misunderstanding of this arbitrary coolie provision, we quote the law:

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the Minister of the Interior, with the assistance of the Committee of Privy Council, constituting the Board of Immigration, as soon as convenient after the passage of this Act, to devise and recommend, for the adoption of His Majesty the King in Privy Council, such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary for the good government and control of immigrants that have been brought or admitted into this kingdom, as servants or laborers, under license or permission from the Bureau of Immigration, or contract with the Minister of the Interior.

SEC. 2. Such rules and regulations as shall, from time to time, be adopted by His Majesty the King in Privy Council under the provisions of this Act, shall be embodied in ordinances of the King in Council, and the same shall be published in a newspaper published in Honolulu.

SEC. 3. All such ordinances shall specify the penalties for violation of the same, and shall have the force of law; and all Courts of Justice shall take Judicial notice thereof.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Police, and of the Police and District Justices, to enforce the rules and regulations that may be adopted and published in accordance with Sections 1 and 2 of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect and become a law from and after the date of its passage.

Approved this 23d day of June, 1868.

Here is a provision for special laws and regulations to apply *only to coolies and other imported laborers*. And now we ask, under what color of truth the official organ dares to say that "no coolie code singles him out for particular surveillance and regulation," or that the native laborers hold no "superior position?"

The whole article in the Ministerial organ appears to have been written for the sole purpose of misleading foreign communities or individuals for a purpose not yet apparent. It is the belief of many that the coolie system stands in the way of the Reciprocity Treaty, and that it has been used by the opponents of the Treaty abroad against the Government. No reasonable man objects to the introduction of emigrants from China, Japan or elsewhere, if procured under a fair system of contract; it is only the fact that the Government is a party to it that constitutes the objection. The introduction of emigrants or laborers should be a purely commercial transaction, entrusted to responsible and faithful persons, who would have an interest in seeing that satisfaction was given to both parties, and who should be held fully responsible. The position which the Government should occupy is only that of guardian or protector of the rights of servant and master—to see that each performs his engagements to the other.

We need laborers, we *must* have them, from China, from Japan, from Southern Polynesia, from Europe—from wherever they will come and fulfill the terms they enter into. But the Government is not the party to engage in these speculations when private parties are ready and willing to do the service. The odium of being engaged as principal in this Chinese or Japanese coolie trade, however humane the *intentions* may be, will damn this or any other government that engages in it.

Swedes, Germans, and other Europeans of the lower laboring classes can be engaged, under contract, to serve for five years as field laborers here, and are said to be willing to come. The same with South Sea Islanders, if *trusty agents* are sent who will satisfy the natives and their missionaries that no injustice will be allowed. The advantage attending the introduction of these is, that on the expiration of their term of service, the South Sea Islanders will amalgamate with the aborigines, while the Europeans will form an intelligent and useful class of citizens, which cannot be claimed to the same extent for either the Chinese or Japanese, who when their term of service expires are a useless class.

This subject is by no means exhausted, and we shall refer again to it and endeavor to point out the best mode to adopt to procure immigrants from Europe and Polynesia.

Latest From Abroad.

The bark *D. C. Murray* had a fine passage down, almost up to steamer time. We wish her popular captain could be secured for one of the steamers—a stranger may do very well, no doubt, but old residents always have a preference for traveling with masters whom they have known from boys. No wonder the *Murray* takes thirty or forty passengers. The same partiality prevails on other routes. How often have New Yorkers waited months to cross to Liverpool with Capt. Eben Knight of the *New World* or Capt. Samuels of the *Dreadnought*, in the days when steamers were not so popular or frequent as they now are on the Atlantic. And who has not esteemed it a privilege to book his name on the steamer to or from Panama, that was commanded by Com. Watkins? We have known travelers plan for months to go with the good old sailor, who has now ended his voyage of life. We hope to live to hear Capt. Bennett's whistle as he casts off the moorings of his mail packet.

The news came in rather late to give it a fair digest, but as we are not likely to have a mail before the steamer, which will be due on the 28th inst., there will be ample time to review and review it in detail. The leading items will be found on our next page, and first among them is the death of Thaddeus Stevens, a member of the national House of Representatives, and the leader of the Republican party, who died on the 12th of August, in his 76th year. He was a man of great force of character, firmness and boldness—qualities that fitted him to be the leader of a party, during a period when none but those qualities were required. He was the most ultra of the Radical Republican party, yet open and consistent, and always ready for an argument and to give his reasons for his policy. During the early part of the late war, when many a brave man quailed and became doubtful what course should be pursued with the defiant rebels, he stood up in his place, equally bold and defiant for the nation. "There are periods in the history of nations," he said, "when statesmen can make themselves names for posterity; but such occasions are never improved by cowards. In the acquisition of true fame, courage is just as necessary in the civil as in the military hero. We may not aspire to fame; but great events fix the eye of history on small objects and magnify their meanness."

During the last few months, he had to be carried to and from the hall of representatives on a couch by four strong men. An anecdote is told of him, which will illustrate his jovial nature. While being carried one day to his seat, at a time when he was not expected to live from day to day, he ordered the bearers to halt, and gravely asked them, what he should do if they were to die suddenly and leave him in the street. His attendants were for an instant struck dumb, when one of them plucked up courage to answer, that he guessed he'd have to crawl along on his hands and knees. The powerful party, of which he was a leader, will not long suffer from his death, for there are others who are able to take and fill the place he held.

The newly-reconstructed Southern States are setting a bad example in passing laws enabling their Legislatures to choose the Presidential electors, instead of allowing the people to do so. The Constitution of the United States declares that "each State shall appoint in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress." South Carolina always chose her Presidential electors in the Legislature, but in all the others the people chose them. The object of the present change in Alabama and Florida and perhaps Louisiana is evidently to secure a Republican choice. It is an unsafe precedent, and may be turned against the dominant party at some future day, when one party controls the Legislature, the other has a popular majority.

The New York *World* (Democratic) claims the following States as *sure* for Seymour and Blair: Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Oregon, Nevada, California, Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Wisconsin and Maryland—in all 160 votes. At least five of the States claimed, will vote for Grant.

The telegraph reports that the editor of the *Lanterne*, the principal comic paper of Paris, has been heavily fined and imprisoned. The *Alta* gives the following explanation of the affair:

"*La Lanterne*, the *Punch* of Paris, has come to grief. For nearly a year this publication has satirized the French Emperor and the Empire in the most aggravating and delicate manner. So refined was its wit and sarcasm that, while its bitter paragraphs set all republican Paris laughing at the sharp thrusts it delivered at Imperial France, there was not a word that could be tortured into any open disrespect to the individual or Government so lampooned. French wit served to disguise the bitterest truths in seemingly harmless persiflage, and cutting sarcasm was hidden beneath the mocking surface of a light jest. In vain the Correctional Chamber has pried and endeavored to make out a case against the mocking sheet; its well-concealed satire has been too volatile to suffer itself to be caught, and its red cover, for it is published as a pamphlet, has been as conspicuous in Paris as the revolutionary cockade in the last days of Louis XVI. At last, it seems, the *Lanterne* has been indiscreet, or its persecutors have become too exasperated. The journal is sentenced to a fine of 10,000f., and the editor will suffer a year's imprisonment."

New York Correspondence—No 1.

City Club Life—Uses and Abuses of Clubs—What the New Yorkers do in them—Their Cost—Glimpses at the Interior of a Club-House.

"FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT."

NEW YORK, June 20, 1868.

The Clubs of New York are one of the most interesting features of city life, and yet one of the least understood. They are not, indeed, secret societies; few of them are even rigidly exclusive; but how little is known to any, save members, of what transpires within the doors of the splendid mansions they occupy? "What do the men *do* at the Club?" is the never-satisfied question of the ladies. Are Clubs immoral? Are they a sign of high civilization, or of decline and weakness?

Your correspondent will best answer these queries by recording some of his personal observations of the City Clubs.

As you stroll on the Fifth or on Madison Avenue, you will observe that several of the largest and most elegant buildings seem to be inhabited by more than their just proportion of men. Stylishly dressed gentlemen stand behind the plate-glass windows, contemplating, with a stoical expression of face, the passers-by. They lounge in arm-chairs within, magazine in hand, glancing from the page into the street; they constantly enter and leave. As ladies pass along the sidewalk, you notice that only the strangers among them look into these windows. Residents prefer to shun the critical glances that fall upon them when they pass the Club-house. Let us turn from the throng and ascend the steps of this elegant "brown-stone front."

We enter a spacious hall; to the left is a cloak-room, to the right a large reading-room, elegantly carpeted, and finished with black walnut in the Gothic style. Four or five copies of each of the leading city papers lie upon the oaken centre-table, or are in the hands of readers. A serious-looking old gentleman reclines upon a sofa near the open window, endeavoring to maintain his gravity against the comical pictures of the London *Punch*. The perfume of flowers steals in from the fashionable Square, where ten acres of trees and blooming shrubs make a miniature country for the benefit of eyes tired with brick walls; and the house of the eminent "Flora McFlimsey, of Madison Square," is not three doors away.

In this room conversation is not permitted. The price of stocks, the "*Herald* Personals" and the latest telegrams from Central Africa or Tongataboo, are alike subjects to be studied in silence. Once in the month, however, this is a noisy room; for here the business meetings of the Club are held. The subject of discussion is generally the same—how to get out of debt?—for there is very little business thrift in the management of the Clubs. I have before me the annual statement of one that is not worse managed than most of the others. It shows a debt of $22,000, and expenses for the current year amounting to nearly $30,000! Some of the items are as follows:

Rent	$10,000
Wages of Employees	7,000
Gas	1,142
Glass and Silver Ware, Furniture, etc	2,216
Two Suppers (at monthly receptions)	843

Where does the money come from to pay all these bills? From the admission fees, which are from $50 to $150, and the semi-annual dues, $25 to $75 per member; and also, in large part, from assessments, which are freely levied upon members whenever a reckless Board of Management brings the Club more deeply than usual into debt. That carelessness which is the peculiar characteristic of American life, is strikingly shown in the unheeded waste of the large incomes of New York Clubs. No one cares to take the trouble of making protest or inquiry. In one Club, not among the wealthiest, the steward is allowed, through favoritism, a salary and perquisites amounting to $1000 per month! In another, dissatisfaction having been, for a wonder, expressed at the management of the Club funds, the Treasurer was allowed to resign his office from a date *two months earlier* than that on which the resignation was tendered. But no one would annoy himself to inquire into the accounts of this honest Treasurer. Perhaps it was already too late; for the Club "went under" soon after, and all its effects were knocked down to auction at pay its debts.

Let us learn some other ways in which money is spent at the Club. We cross a marble-tiled floor to a handsome dining-hall. Knots of gentlemen are seated at their comfortable meals. Dusky waiters ply them with assiduous service. There sits Sir Ledger, Jr., dining by invitation with Squire Invoice, who eats at the Club, for the present, because his last hired cook is a failure, and Mrs. I. won't admit it yet. In the corner near the window sits one of our first literary men, who has dined at the Club for the last ten years. Opposite to him is a little lawyer of unsocial tendencies, who has not been known to speak to any one in the Club since he joined it, eighteen months ago. At the next table you see two cronies, haunters of the Club-house at all hours, until lately. But one of them, a brilliant man of Wall street, is now about to be married. He does not seem to mind it much. His friend is a young physician, a tall, elegant fellow, with a touch of the cynical element about him, and a confirmed bachelor withal. "So you are going to cut the Club, my boy, after the fatal day?" says he. "Must do it, Mat," answers Wall Street; "my Angelica says the Club isn't the thing." And their talk flows off and sparkles from this text.

But we must leave them and run up stairs, if we would learn more of "what the men do at the Club." Below, we have seen them reading, lounging, and dining in comfort at restaurant prices. The second story rooms are devoted to the second great function of the Club—conversation. Hese gentlemen meet to discuss business, marriage, politics, amusements, and philosophy; here many a valuable business acquaintance is made. What projects are not planned in the cushioned corners of the conversation rooms? They are tinged in general, it must be confessed, with the "spirit of wine." A "dry talk" is rare in a Club-house; yet drinking to excess is not common.

Once a month it is customary for each Club to give a supper and reception to its male guests. This is always an elegant affair. The dining-saloon is thrown open at ten o'clock; a rich table is ready, and the great punch bowls are drained many times. Then follows a musical entertainment. There is piano playing, by brilliant performers. Songs and comic stories are given, amid the most jovial applause. Many a man yields to these convivial influences, who may have been almost an ascetic during the rest of the month; and wives complain, sometimes, that their liege lords come home quite "crooked" from "that horrid monthly meeting," and have some little difficulty at the door with the latch-key.

The Clubs of New York are mostly chartered institutions, with special characteristics or "platforms," that are more or less definite. The "Union League" and the "Manhattan," for instance, are respectively Republican and Democratic Clubs. The "Century" is a literary association. It began with 100 members, whence its name; but soon became so popular that its membership ran up to six hundred. Of course it is not so select as it was at first. The "Jockey Club" stands at the other pole of civilization, and is frequented by gentlemen who prefer fast horses to libraries. It has an elegant house near the Fordham race course, twelve miles out of town. The "Travelers' Club" assembles the wandering intellects of a number of gentlemen who have been all over the world. They have pleasant rooms in the Fifth Avenue. The "Eclectic" is the "codfish aristocrats" Club. The "Athenæum" was, until the present week, a delightful Club. Its specialty was Art; no Club in town had a better membership or a finer house; but bad management killed it. Lavish expenditure, dishonest employees, and the recklessness that follows prosperity, were too much for it; and a peremptory sale of all its effects, last Monday, closed the career of the once popular and brilliant "Athenæum Club" of New York.

The various "platforms" I have mentioned are not, however, very prominent in the Clubs. The purposes of each are mainly the same. In each, you meet friendly or business acquaintances, you read studiously in the library, or you drink your light wines; you write your letters, you skim the magazines, you play at chess, cards, or billiards; you recreate yourself or dissipate at will. There is the largest liberty, you can enter the house at all hours until two o'clock in the morning, and remain as long as please, you will seldom care to remain all night, however, as the Clubs provide no accommodations for sleeping.

But we have not yet finished our stroll through the Club-house. Here is a spacious toilet room, with hot and cold water, and all the modern improvements. Here is the library, provided with well selected authors and works of reference. There is ample stock of writing materials, with paper bearing the Club monogram. Next to the library are the chess-room and the card-room.

Upon the next or top-floor are the brightly-lighted billiard-rooms. The ivory spheres are playing around briskly upon the green baize, and you see that clever shots are being made. But we will not stop to report the game. We return down the broad stair-case and visit the gallery devoted to the monthly exhibition of paintings. The display is often excellent, in certain Clubs; including works from the easels of the best New York artists—Gifford, McEntee, Boughton and others. The majority of our artists are Club men, and lend their latest works for one evening in the month to these pleasant exhibitions.

Some gentlemen belong to nearly all the Clubs in the city, yet these are often the ones who attend the Clubs least frequently. It must be admitted that the most constant visitors are apt to be young unmarried blades, devoted to cigars and strenuous idleness; yet nearly all the most prominent men of New York belong to the Clubs. Ministers, physicians, capitalists, literary men, lawyers, artists, editors—all are numerously represented in their catalogues. "The best society of New York is in the Clubs," said one of the most eminent clergymen in this city to me, lately. This is true; yet the best society is not constantly *at* the Club-houses. The best men are too busy to spend much time there. But the loungers love the Clubs,—their quiet, and their comfort, the sleepy air of luxury which pervades their elegant apartments.

At the monthly meetings one more frequently sees the choicer elements of the membership. A number of gentlemen then appear, also, whose names nobody knows. They do not patronize the Club during the rest of the month. But they are punctually on hand upon the occasion of this supper, of which the Club defrays the cost, as if attracted, like mice from their hiding-places, by the smell of the bait.

The cost of Club membership varies, of course, with the habits of the individual. Some men attend simply to read and converse, and do not incur fifty dollars worth of expense while there, beyond the regular semi-annual dues, in the course of the year. Others take all their meals at the Club, instead of at a restaurant or boarding house or at home. Some devote their whole energies to dining, wining, and playing for,—games of chance are allowed in some of the Clubs—and in these ways manage to spend handsome incomes.

Candidates for admission are proposed in writing, by a "mover" and "seconder," both of whom must be members of the Club in question. Most of the Clubs have from 400 to 800 members. Only residents of the city are generally eligible for admission, though some of the Clubs have a small number of members known as "non-resident." Strangers, however, may become guests of the Club, i. e., entitled to the privileges of the house, for a month at a time, on the written introduction of a member. Ungentlemanly conduct is punishable by expulsion from the Club, upon a three-fourths vote of a regular meeting; but obnoxious members are generally allowed to resign quietly. A "Board of Management" is elected yearly, besides the usual officers; and all the business affairs of the Club are left in their hands.

Ladies are not admitted, "under any pretext," to the apartments of the Clubs. But the ladies have lately started a rival enterprise, the "Woman's Club" or "Sorosis," as the name is finally determined upon. This has commenced under the best auspices, and has, so far, been very successful. It is composed of the most cultivated ladies of New York. It has been laughed at a good deal, yet is regarded by many sensible people as a very sensible movement. But of this I may have more to say in another letter.

From the portrait I have sketched, I think that the many readers of the *Advertiser* will be able to study the great institution known as "The Clubs of New York."

CALAMUS.

Information Wanted,

OF JOHN C. POLLARD, WHO ARRIVED at these Islands December 7, 1867, in the British ship *Magnolia*. Address, (641 1t) ADAMS & WILDER.

NOTICE!

A FIRST DIVIDEND OF 25 PER CENT. will be paid to the Creditors of S. Savage, on and after Monday, the 7th inst., at the office of F. A. Schaefer & Co.

J. W. AUSTIN,
F. A. SCHAEFER,
HENRY MAY,
Assignees.

641 2t

NOTICE.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING of PROTECTION HOOK AND LADDER CO. No. 1 will be held on next Monday evening, 7th inst., at 7½ o'clock. A punctual attendance is most particularly requested.

641 1t G. W. HOUGHTAILING, Foreman.

NEW GROCERIES Just Received, Per D. C. Murray.

LAYER RAISINS IN BOXES, Half, Qr. and eighth boxes.
Chests best Comet Tea,
Japan Tea in bulk, a new and very choice article,
Cases Green Sweet Corn,
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Small hand Brooms and Brushes,
Nests Market Baskets,
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Boneless Sardines,
Cal. Oats, Bran, Barley and Wheat,
Fresh California Potatoes,
Boxes new Cal. Onions,

Best Cal. Hams and Streak Bacon,

FOR SALE AT

The Family Grocery and Feed Store,

By (641 1m) I. BARTLETT.

ENGLISH HERRINGS IN TINS, JUST RECEIVED and for sale by I. BARTLETT,
641 1m Family Grocery and Feed Store

"Janus" on Contracts.

MR. EDITOR:—A brilliant *janius* of the *Gazette* of a late issue, is heavy on *contracts*,—indeed one way he is heavy generally,—on crops, consequences, conclusions, constructions and concatenations accordingly. The *Gazette* is a weighty paper in its own eyes, and its correspondents are worthy of their patrons.

"Forms of contract," says this *Janius*, "are very convenient and used more or less," and truly, so they are! but who would have thought it, but for being told! "Where inapplicable they will not be used." Certainly not,—a marriage contract, for instance, means more than twelve months service and would sometimes be "inapplicable." It is very well to know it, so thank you, "Janus"—a two-faced Janus—you can look backward and forward, if not much to either side. "All contracts are supposed to be drawn in conformity to law" (*supposed* is good) —"*which they must be in order to be legal*"—and when found make a note of, for if our highly posted "Janus" hadn't told us so, what would become of the country and His Honor the Chief Justice! Coke or Lyttleton, avaunt! Strangely enough though, our "Janus" omits to add, what it seems to me would have been in place here, that all contracts *must be signed* before they amount to much. But "Janus" had something extra heavy on his mind just then, which threw him for a moment off the track, and "supposes" terrible terminations "on the decease of the employer." Truly, such sad contingencies are to be anticipated, to the bewilderment of planters and lawyers, not to say housekeepers and small contractors. But how is it when the *servant* happens to slip his wind? Wouldn't our "Janus" carry it to the courts? Isn't there manifest injustice in escaping a contract that way? "I can see no oppression to the employed in their being obliged to fulfill their contract." Well, suppose you *could*, the fact I fancy would not create an earthquake. But rather, with all the philosophical Tootses of our community, it wouldn't be of the "slightest consequence."

"Janus" is concise and elegant too,—thus: "Planters are compelled by circumstances" (such as afflicted the young man Guppy, I presume, 'over which they have no control') "to make large advances to laborers which are to come